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***Request for Approval to Enter into a Contract, not to exceed \$371,000, to Implement the Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program in the Delta***

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**Staff Report**

This agenda item requests Board approval to enter into a contract to implement the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Certification Program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) to enter into a contract, not to exceed \$371,000.00, to implement the FFF Certification Program in the Delta in order to achieve goals and objectives consistent with the draft scope of work.

**DESCRIPTION**

Staff proposes to enter into a contract to implement the FFF Certification Program on up to 10,000 acres of farm land. At its December 10, 2018 meeting, the Board approved Resolution 2018-05 which authorizes the Conservancy to enter into an interagency agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board to receive \$399,400 to support the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) in the Delta through the FFF Certification Program. This request is to take the subsequent step of entering into an agreement between the Conservancy and a contractor to implement the project.

The FFF Certification Program comprehensively reviews pollutant pathways and applies BMPs to reduce agricultural generation of chemicals, sediments, and nutrients and their transport to Delta waters. Provided the Board grants approval, the Conservancy will enter into an agreement for a contractor to enroll and certify entities in the FFF Program; identify and implement BMP; and identify and implement water quality projects, such as establishing return irrigation flow and drainage water settling basins, irrigation water use improvements, and sediment filtration improvements (for instance filter strips and vegetated field borders). The draft scope of work is included in Attachment 2.

**BAKGROUND**

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is impaired by two organophosphorus pesticides listed in the Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) in 2006: diazinon and chlorpyrifos. The Central Valley Water Board amended the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) to adopt a strategy to bring dischargers of diazinon and chlorpyrifos into compliance with water quality objectives. This project will help growers adopt land and water management practices and achieve long term reduction in nonpoint source pesticide pollutants and nutrients.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

*Move that the Board authorize, contingent upon execution of an interagency agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board to provide the necessary funding, the Executive Officer or his designee to enter into a contract, not to exceed \$371,000, to implement the Fish Friendly Farming Program to achieve goals and objectives consistent with the Scope of Work included as Attachment 2 to Item 8 of the agenda for this meeting.*

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